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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Congress' Involvement "Off Sides"***  
***Congressman Says Congress Should Stay Out Of College Football Fuss***

Washington, D.C. --

Today, Congressman Brad Carson (D-OK) spoke out against Congressional involvement by the House Judiciary Committee to hold hearings on the fairness of the Bowl Championship Series system in giving automatic bids for schools to compete in postseason bowl games.

"Sports fans have debated since the establishment of the BCS ratings during the 1998 season if it was a good thing for college football or not," said Congressman

Carson. "Regardless of what side people fall on of the BCS system, I believe that most all of us can agree that it is an issue that should be worked out amongst the universities throughout the country and not in the halls of Congress."

The BCS was established before the 1998 season to determine the national champion by matching the best teams in either the Rose Bowl, Sugar Bowl, Orange Bowl or Fiesta Bowl. Its complex formula uses polls, won-loss record and other factors.

The champions from the Atlantic Coast, Big East, Big 12, Big Ten, Pac-10 and Southeastern conferences receive automatic bids. There are also two at-large bids that are open to all Division I-A schools. Teams from non-BCS conferences are guaranteed a bid to one of the four bowl games if they are ranked in the top six.

"It's my hope that Congress will do the right thing and not put the heavy hand of the federal government square in the middle of college athletics," said Congressman Carson. "I believe my constituents want their Representative to deal with our faltering economy, pass a prescription drug benefit for seniors and continue to make our country a safer place to live. Let's allow collegiate athletics, university officials, teams and fans decide who the Sooners are going to play against this year for another national championship, not politicians in Washington."

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